

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 01467 151219Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSM-05 HA-05
ACDA-12 SY-05 CCO-00 MCT-01 /093 W
-----117980 151233Z /17

O 151143Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7224
USMISSION USUN NY NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 1467

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, SY, IS, UN
SUBJECT: SYRIAN DEMARCHE ON ISRAELI MILITARY OPERATIONS WITHIN LEBANON

1. AT 1130 L (0930ZL MARCH 15, DEPFONMIN QADDUR CONVOKED
MEEIING OF ALL AMBASSADORS RESIDENT IN DAMASCUS REPRESENTING MEMBER
STATES OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL. HE READ ALOUD FOLLOWING TEXT:
QUOTE
2. AFTER MIDNIGHT 14/15 MARCH, ISRAEL LAUNCHED A WIDESCALE
AGGRESSION AGAINST LEBANON UTILIZING A VARIETY OF ARMS. THE
MILITARY OPERATION IS CONTINUING. THE AGGRESSIVE FORCE
IS DESTROYING VILLAGES AND REFUGEE CAMPS AND HAS KILLED HUNDREDS
OF INNOCENT CIVILIANS. ISRAEL PRETENDS THAT IT IS UNDERTAKING
MASS
OFFENSIVE IN RESPONSE TO THE FEYADEEN OPERATION OF
MARCH 11 INSIDE PALESTINE. ISRAEL, IN LAUNCHING THIS
AGGRESSION, KNOWS WELL THAT THOSE WHO TOOK PART IN THE 11
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MARCH OPERATION DID NOT (REPEAT NOT) COME FROM SOUTH
LEBANON. IT HAS USED THIS AS A PRETEXT TO VIOLATE LEBANESE
SOVEREIGNTY. LEBANON IS A FULL MEMBER OF THE UNITED
NATIONS AND THE ISRAELI ACTION IN VIOLATING ITS INTEGRITY AND
SECURITY WHILE KILLING HUNDREDS OF INNOCENTS AND DESTROYING
LEBANESE VILLAGES AS WELL AS REFUGEE CAMPS.

3. THIS OFFENSIVE OPERATION IS A FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE UN CHARTER AND THE PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW GOVERNING MILITARY OPERATIONS.

4. THIS ACTION MAKES ABUNDANTLY CLEAR ISRAEL'S DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE ITS AGGRESSION, TO VIOLATE THE UN CHARTER AND RESOLUTIONS AND ALSO INDICATES ISRAEL'S UNWILLINGNESS FOR PEACE.

5. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC IS WATCHING WITH DEEP ANXIETY AND GRAVITY THE EVENTS IN SOUTH LEBANON AND CALLS ON MEMBER STATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL TO ASSUME THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AS PRESCRIBED IN THE CHARTER, TO INTERVENE IMMEDIATELY TO STOP THE AGGRESSION AGAINST A UN MEMBER STATE, AND TO TAKE THE NECESSARY MEASURES IMMEDIATELY TO COMPEL ISRAEL TO PULL BACK FROM LEBANESE TERRITORY.
UNQUOTE.

6. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM THESE ATTENDING QADDUR MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (A) THIS IS THINKING

DEMARCHE WHICH SYRIA HAS THUS FAR DECIDED TO MAKE. ITS PURPOSE IS TO INFORM MEMBER STATES OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL. SYRIAN EMBASSIES ABROAD WILL BE IN CONTACT WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRIES OF UNSC MEMBER STATES.
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(B) SYRIA IS NOT AWARE WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON MAY ALREADY HAVE UNDERTAKEN OR IS PLANNING TO MAKE A SIMILAR DEMARCHE. (C) IN ASSERTING THAT ISRAEL "KNOWS WELL THAT THOSE WHO TOOK PART IN THE 11 MARCH INCIDENT DID NOT COME FROM SOUTH LEBANON" SYRIA IS NOT SURE IT KNOWS WHERE THEY CAME FROM. THERE ARE ONE MILLION PALESTINIANS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES BUT

SYRIA, HE REPEATED, HAS NO INFORMATION AS TO PRECISELY WHERE THE MARCH ATTACK ORIGINATED.

7. DAMASCUS RADIO HAS CARRIED REPORTS OF ISRAELI MILITARY ACTION SINCE ITS EARLY MORNING NEWS BROADCAST. AT 1110 LOCAL IT ADDED NOTE. THAT AMBASSADOR DINITZ HAD ADVISED PRESIDENT CARTER OF PLANNED ISRAEL ATTACK TWO HOURS BEFORE IT WAS LAUNCHED. QUOTING PALESTINIAN SOURCES, RADIO ALSO ASSERTED PALESTINIAN FORCES WERE CONTAINING ISRAELI ADVANCES IN IDAYSA-TAYBE SECTOR AND THAT PALESTINIAN ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS WERE KEEPING ISRAELI PLANES FROM BOMBING TYRE AND REFUGEE CAMPS IN REGION OF THATHRT CITY.
MURPHY

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